

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

20. (New) A pre-stressed girder comprising:

an upper flange;

a lower flange;

a body portion interconnecting said upper flange to said lower flange, wherein the girder has a lengthwise direction and includes an open area disposed intermediate opposite longitudinal ends of the girder, the open area being accessible in a lateral direction relative to the longitudinal direction;

a first plurality of wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder and being pre-tensioned during the construction of the girder;

a second plurality of wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder; one end of each of said second plurality of wires disposed within the open area and the other end of at least one of said second plurality of wires extending to one of the longitudinal ends of the girder and the other end of at least one other of said second plurality of wires extending to the other one of the longitudinal ends of the girder; and

coupler means for coupling together at least said at least one and said at least one other of said second plurality of wires of said second plurality of wires whereby,

upon creating tension in the wires coupled together by said coupler, a tension in the girder due to said second plurality of wires extends from the one end to the other end of the girder.

21. (New) The girder of claim 20, wherein the open area remains empty after installation of the girder so that the one end, disposed within the open area, of each second steel wire is accessible through the open area to produce in each second steel wire.

22. (New) The girder according to claim 20, wherein one of the second wires extend from the open area to one of the longitudinal ends of the girder and the rest of the second wires extend from the open area to the other of the opposite longitudinal ends.

23. (New) A pre-stressed girder comprising:
an upper flange;
a lower flanges;
a body portion interconnected said upper and lower flanges,
wherein the girder defines a lengthwise direction and including an open area disposed intermediate opposite longitudinal ends of the girder, the open area being accessible in a lateral direction relative to the longitudinal direction;
a coupling member; and

a plurality of wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder including a first plurality of the wires being pre-tensioned, and a second plurality of the wires being substantially non-tensioned and connected to the coupling member disposed within the open area wherein at least one of the substantially non-tensioned wires extending from the coupling member to one of the longitudinal ends of the girder and at least one of the substantially non-tensioned wires extending from the coupling member to the other of the opposite longitudinal ends,

wherein the coupling member includes an adjustable tensioning structure accessible through the open area to produce, in the substantially non-tensioned wires, a tension which extends from one of the opposite longitudinal ends of the girder to the other of the longitudinal ends thereof.

24. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 23, wherein the coupling member has holes formed therethrough through which respective ones of the substantially non-tensioned wires extend and are secured by wedges.

25. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 23, wherein the substantially non-tensioned wires are disposed within one of the upper and lower flanges.

26. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 23, wherein there are three substantially non-tensioned wires, two of which extending to one of the

longitudinal ends and the other extending to the other longitudinal end and situated between the two substantially non-tensioned wires.

27. (New) A building structure comprising a pre-stressed girder according to claim 23, wherein each substantially non-tensioned wires remain in a state that the substantially non-tensioned wires are accessible and can be tensioned after the completion of the construction of the building structure so that the girder can be reinforced by tensioning the substantially non-tensioned wires after the completion of the construction of the building structure.

28. (New) The building structure according to claim 27, wherein said building structure is a bridge.

29. (New) The building structure according to claim 27, wherein said building structure is a building.

30. (New) A method of building a structure in which a pre-stressed girder in accordance with claim 23 is disposed, the method comprising the step of building the structure with the girder incorporated therein such that each substantially non-tensioned wire remains accessible for being tensioned subsequent to completion of the structure.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the structure comprises a bridge.

32. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the structure comprises a building.